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Alert
Yahoo! DomainKeys has confirmed that this message was sent by yahoo.com. [Learn more](#)**Subject:** Local, independent media control**To:** "Susan Rynas" <sgrynas@yahoo.com>

I am very concerned about any further encroachment by the FCC on local, independent media outlets such as the family owned Seattle Times which I subscribe to and read every morning.

It is imperative that my newspaper continues to be supported by media-ownership protections so that it remains responsive to all segments of our local community, and continues lead stories that involve the public interest and that educate and inform with integrity and fairness.

I am speaking from experience as a mother of a daughter with a mental illness who is not receiving the care she needs. I am speaking as a founding member of an Eastside mental health advocacy organization called NAMI Eastside.

This newspaper helps me, as a family advocate, keep the various players in the delivery of mental health services in King County and within our state on task. It does this by covering stories that involve individuals, mental health providers, hospital services, funding, and politics involved in the mental health delivery system.

Informed, concerned and activist citizens keep our democracy strong. We need the truth of any given situation in order to be effective in this responsibility.

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This locally owned paper cares about the people who

live here. Its owners and its reporters live here also. We are all in this thing together and will sink or swim together.

I do not want to get my news from a paper that is owned by a conglomerate from another state who knows and cares nothing about people in the Puget Sound area.

Do not harm the already fragile media and press further by relaxing newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership restrictions. Do not enact additional bad policy.

Susan Rynas

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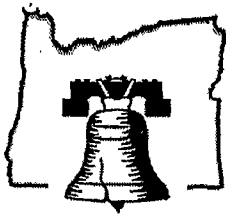
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Democracy Reform Oregon

P.O. Box 2723, Portland, OR 97208-2723
503/283-1922 * 503/283-1877(fax)
www.democracyreform.org
www.oregonfollowthemoney.org

Accessible politics, accountable government

Statement to the Federal Communications Commission

November 9, 2007

Seattle Media Ownership Hearings

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

My name is Judy Davis and I am a volunteer with Democracy Reform Oregon.

On behalf of the Oregon Alliance to Reform Media, Democracy Reform Oregon worked with national partners to file a petition with the FCC to deny the licenses of Portland broadcast TV stations. This challenge was based on research documenting minimal campaign coverage on local news programs; A review of tapes made by our group of all local news aired on four stations in the month before the November 2004 election.

For example, less than 5 percent of local news that month covered the upcoming elections. Worse yet, during that month there were only six stories on local races even though on that November ballot there was a hot mayoral race and an open city council seat.

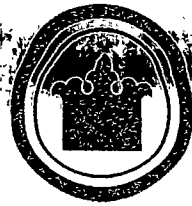
I am certainly not seeing on TV news what I need to be an informed voter. For this reason I am very disappointed that this petition has been denied and urge your support for our appeal.

This research documented that locally produced broadcast TV news is already not complying with one critical measure of fulfilling public-interest obligations – that of providing news that helps voters make informed decisions on their ballots. Allowing even more consolidation of media ownership will just make this bad situation worse.

I also have petitions signed by 90 Portland residents who couldn't be here but also say no to the new ownership rules. With more notice I have no doubt I could have collect many more signatures.

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Democracy Reform Oregon (DRO) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit group working to increase accountability and opportunities for participation in politics and governmental decision-making. DRO has been working on democracy reform issues since 1999 and was formerly the Money in Politics Research Action Project.



06-121

METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Martin:

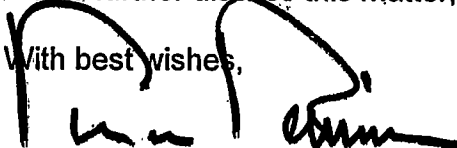
In light of the Federal Communications Commission hearing in Seattle regarding media ownership, I felt it was the appropriate time to express my concerns on this matter as both an individual and as a locally-elected official of the greater Seattle region.

I oppose any efforts to centralize media ownership in individual media markets. Decentralized media ownership not only secures multiple opinion sources for diverse points of view, but also has emphasized localism in media attention that has been increasingly lost in America as major media conglomerates have consolidated control. The mass syndication of news has taken a toll on local coverage across our country. As the media focus has shifted towards national headlines, the importance of local information has been neglected.

Three decades of unfortunate public policy has led to unprecedented media control in the hands of the few. It falls upon the FCC to decide whether this condition continues and accelerates, or, whether we can return to policies that restore localism in media coverage and the diversity of opinion which is essential for our democracy to thrive and survive.

As a local government official I would appreciate your careful deliberation over these concerns. To further discuss this matter, please feel free to contact me at (206) 296-1007.

With best wishes,


Pete von Reichbauer
King County Councilmember
8 November 2007

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CC: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert McDowell

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Congressman Dave Reichert
Serving Washington's 8th District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 9, 2007

NOV 16 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Contact: Abigail Shilling
(202) 225-7761

Reichert Statement for FCC Media Ownership Hearing in Seattle

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) today submitted the opening remarks for the Federal Communications Commission hearing on Media Ownership being held today in Seattle:

[\(Click here to watch\)](#)

"Good afternoon. I'd like to welcome the FCC Commissioners and all the attendees at today's hearing to Seattle, WA. I appreciate the opportunity to share a few words with you and I regret that the Congressional schedule did not allow me to be with you today for this important discussion on media ownership.

"Relaxing restrictions on media ownership is clearly not in the public interest. It seems strange that we must create rules in order to maintain diversity, yet, as Americans, we all know that freedom is not free. Our Founding Fathers had the foresight to create a great foundation of democracy in this country, and I'm proud to contribute my time working to protect those freedoms. American corporations create opportunities for us, creating jobs, fueling the economy and keeping our country competitive in this globalized era. But when it comes to media ownership, allowing these companies to simply take over can have the adverse effect of limiting the information available to local consumers.

"Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of our democratic society. Localism enhances the public's informed participation in our democracy, and a diverse media market reduces the risk that news will be censored or slanted by a few controlling interests. As the Supreme Court has stated, "the purpose of the First Amendment [of the Constitution] is to preserve an uninhibited marketplace of ideas in which truth will ultimately prevail," and the right of the public to receive unbiased access to news and ideas should not "abridged by either Congress or by the FCC." It is essential to the health of our democracy to ensure that this right is protected.

"Today is the sixth and final public forum being conducted by the FCC on media ownership issues, prior to a potential vote later this year on new rules that will govern media consolidation. The rules adopted by the FCC will have a tremendous impact on the news coverage and variety of information available to communities across the United States. It is fitting that this final forum is being held here in Seattle, home to one of the largest remaining family and locally owned newspapers in America, The Seattle Times, which has exemplified commitment to and the power of localism. I thank the Commissioners for holding these forums. It is essential that the concerns of the American public be considered before making any changes to our current laws."

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Richard North	17070 SW Rivendell Dundee, OR	97224	503-968-1520	hrnorth@kevanet.com	Yes
NANCY CAROLYN BUEHL	5214 SE TAYLOR ST	97215	503-236-8733		
Linda Schmoldt	2731 SE Market PDX	97214	503-236-3495		
Tara Gardner	3128 SE Pine PDX 97214		503-784-9984	jared@mortgage-trust.com	
John Foster	11	11	503-701-2829	john.foster@horizonwind.com	

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Laura Polich	3708 NE 109th Pl Vancouver	98682		laura.polich@gmail.com	-
Holly Hanks	17070 SW Rivendell Durham	97224	503 968-1520		
Sherry Hall	3722 SE El 115	97202	503-775-2466	sherry@spiritone	
Patricia Dulan	8600 SW Myssalane	97225	503-291-6014		-
Betsy Riddell	1691 N. Santzen Ave	97217	503-977-9663	bet-ter@yahoo.com	✓

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Brenda Page	5588 NW 123 Ave.	97005	305 503-4000	—	—
Beth Wasko	PO Box 22666	97969	503-653-5340	beth.wasko@comcast.net	—
G. Elaine Carter	3236 SE Brooklyn St.	Portland 97202	—	—	—
Jan Laviolette	9601 NW Leaky #311	Portland 97229	503-297-8070	—	—
Marilee Thompson	6945 SW 14th Ct. Beaverton OR 97007	—	503 644-7414	mjt@compsonline.net	yes

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Sarah Hudson	8347 SW Davies Ct	97223	(503) 452-3071	s.rodd@comcast.net	-
Fiona Masterson	4542 NE 27th Ave	97211	503-853-6530	flamingbananas@hotmail.com	✓
Keith Abernathy	3218 S.W. Freeman	97219	503-246-2877	christy@teleport.com	
Amey Upshaw	11305 S.E. 33rd	97202			
Sandy Norwood	3349 SE Washington		503-297-5403	Sandy.norwood@aol.com	
	Portland OR	97214			

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Judy Davis	17617 Arbor Lane Lake Oswego	97035	503-699-8737	jwdravis@hervanet.com	Yes
Helen Gerhardt	14075 SW Dear Lane Beverton OR	97008	503 524 3122	hengerhardt@msn.com	YES
Tan Harris	3855 NE Webster Portland, OR	97211	503 233-7866	harris3855@comcast.net	YES
Linda McKinn-Bell	1808 N.W. Aspen Ave. Portland, Or.	97210			No
Stephen Cross	CSU 9 NE Skidmore Portland, OR	97218		cross37@yahoo	

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
MARIE TAYLOR	42427 NE Ainsworth St	97218	503 682-4028	marie-tylor@yahoo.com	
BANKS UPSHAW	4805 SE 33 AV.	97202	503 777-7857		
Will WEL	731 SW Salmon Portland, OR 97205	97205	503 227-5225		
Susan Hoping	2266 5th OR WEST LINCOLN	97068			
David Rd	4347 SW Davis Ct Portland, OR 97205	97223	503 452-3671	Javerode notfori.com	

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Mary Anne Danel				marydanel@comcast.net	
Geoff Bederson				geoffb@alaska.net	
Danna Heath	11701 NE 32nd VANCOUVER, WA 98082		360-896-8852	domashheads@aol.com	
Michelle Mintnier	1860 SE Ladd Ave Portland, OR	97214	305-232-1481	mmintnier@yahoo.com	
Mel Reslor	3707 SW 52nd Pl PO Box 97221	97221		MOJOINTELLIGENCE.COM	

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
M. Jones	PO Box 11884 Portland, OR	97211			
JONAN KYSAR	17617 ARBOR LANE LAKE OSWEGO, OR	97035	503- 199-8737		Yes
ALON HEATH	11701 NE 32ND ST VANCOUVER WA	98682	360- 896-8852		
Clark Foerster	3555 SE 67TH Ave Portland 97206	97206	503 715 2910		yes
Tom Goldenbaum	1534 Coffman Canyon Dr. Benson AZ	85602			no

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Patricia M. Allen	Salem 3506 Cherokee Dr. S.	97302	503/365-0554	Chatrinka @MSU.com	yes
Ray & Adams	Salem 3506 Cherokee Dr. S.	97302	(503)365-0554	—	yes
Elsa Peters	2309 SW 18th Ave #712	97201	503-736-1880	elka@spokane.com	—
KE So	2015 SE Larch Ave	97214	503 373 0697	dustynuce@yahoo.com	yes
Leslie Pohl-Kosbar	7136 SW 3rd Ave	97219	503 245-6097	lesliepohl@aol.com	—

Left Gerritsen 1803 W. Hayden Island 97217 503 266 595 left@leftgerritsen.us
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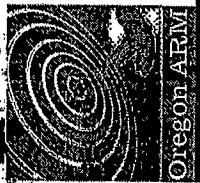
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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Joseph Ryan	417 22nd Ave Portland, OR	97214	503, 234-154	CSO Clean Pipe @ yahoo.co	✓
Diana Richardson	1705 SW Sunset Blvd. Portland, OR	97239	503, 235- 33534	lickety split 7777@ yahoo.com	✓
Cynthia Fisher	2814 E. 19th St. Vancouver, WA	98661		pacta cinetia yahoo.com	
Andrea Drury	2427 NW Thurman St. Portland	97210		andrea@ adrury.com	
Will Newman II	P.O. Box 1108 Canby, OR	97013		info@ osaf.org	

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
H. Gatten				hank@wardsteward.org	yes
JODIE STEWARD			503-244-6658		YES
Richard C. Freeman			(503) 235-3357	rich.freeman@pacarm.org	yes
Judy Davis	17617 Arbor Lane Lake Oswego	97035	503-699-8737	jwdavis@pacarmet.com	Yes
DAVID HYDE	Po Box 33579 PORTLAND 97222		503-772-1576	DAVIDHYDE@PACARM.ORG	X

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Barbara Crenke				mandorla2open@yahoo.com	yes
Dan Budde	4912 SE ADIRACR57	97222	503 6592070	ccojog@gmail.com	yes
Lolly Tweed	The Dalles	97058		tweed@gorge.net	yes
Katherine Huer	1759 W.E. Chackamas POX	97232	503-287-6134	kakura@earthlink.net	yes
Wendy Sample	5525 SW bulley Ave POX	97239	503.245 2647	Wendy-sample@hotmail.com	yes

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
John Miller	2305 NE 40 th Ave.	97212	503-282-9618	seethe@adl.com	yes.

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Name	Address	Zip	Phone	Email	Want info on Seattle hearing?
Susan Muller	9020 N Smith St PDX OR	97203	503-283-7741	susanmuller@hotmail.com	sure

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Name

Signature

Address

No to Bigger Media Consolidation

NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
27. Viridiana Cervantes	<i>Viridiana Cervantes</i>	708 NW 19th Ave apt 409 PDX 97209
28. Holly Stern	<i>Holly Stern</i>	7533 SE 16th Ave Portland, OR 97202
29. Don Prather	<i>Don Prather</i>	2533 SE 16th Ave Portland, OR 97202
30. Janice Clark	<i>Janice Clark</i>	3950 SE 122nd Ave Apt 116 Beaverton, OR 97005
31. Roserria Roberts	<i>Roserria Roberts</i>	3418 SW Bella Vista Ave Gresham, OR 97030
32. CART MADER	<i>CART MADER</i>	
33. Martha Jones	<i>Martha Jones</i>	5034 SE Tolman Portland, OR 97206
34. Carolyn Glien	<i>CAROLYN GLEN</i>	4756 SE Hawthorne #430 Portland, OR 97214
35. Joanne Hagensick	<i>Joanne Hagensick</i>	1421 SE 25th PDX 97214
36. Nancy Catlin	<i>Nancy Catlin</i>	1221 SW 10th 603 PDX 97205
37. David Warner	<i>David Warner</i>	7324 SE Division St PDX 97206
38. John Miller	<i>John Miller</i>	2305 NE 45th Ave PDX 97212
39. Elizabeth Foster	<i>Elizabeth Foster</i>	4205 SE Hammon PDX 97206
40. Donna W. Jones	<i>Donna W. Jones</i>	111 SW Harrison - Portland 97204
41. Leonard Murphy	<i>Leonard Murphy</i>	" " " "
42.		" " " "
43. B. Clark	<i>B. Clark</i>	4608 NE Beeson St Portland 97213
44. Jewi Holt	<i>Jewi Holt</i>	8116 SW 9th St Portland 97219
45. Paul Grant	<i>Paul Grant</i>	835 NE 55th Ave Portland, OR 97213
46. Joanna Klick	<i>Joanna Klick</i>	24475 SE Strawberry Dr. Boring, OR 97009
47. Phil Park	<i>Phil Park</i>	2050 SE 16th Portland 97214
48. ROBERT SCHAIBLY	<i>Robert Schaubly</i>	7835 SE 15th Ave, 97202
49. Josie Koehne	<i>Josie Koehne</i>	37 NE Fager St Portland 97212
50. Margaret Quintana	<i>Margaret Quintana</i>	1603 NE 75th St Pdx 97213

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06-121

Remarks

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Office of the Secretary
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[Former Director, King County Office of Emergency Mgmt.]

- For the record, I am Eric Holdeman, a Principal with ICF International, and formerly the Director, King County Office of Emergency Management.
- Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you and share a perspective on the critical nature of the relationship between the public sector and local broadcasters. And, let me assure you it is all about establishing working relationships.
- First and foremost is that fact that however you define it—local government and the media industry must be in partnership with one another. This is a partnership that acknowledges the responsibilities and independence of each party, but seeks to have a coordinated effort when it comes to serving their mutual communities and missions.

I'm going to address several such opportunities for collaboration that have been exploited here in this region:

- Pre-disaster in King County we sought a partnership with local media companies to do a public education campaign on the topic of Disaster preparedness for individuals and families—It is called: 3 Days, 3 Ways, Are You Ready?
 - Together we were able to leverage \$1.5M in government funding into a combined campaign that involved radio, television, bill boards, and bus signage that provided at a minimum \$2.5 value for every dollar we invested by having a matching contribution in airtime and internet presence from local media companies. In one case our partnership with the Seattle Mariners, the American Red Cross, Phillips Medical and KOMO 1000 Radio provided a four to one value on the investment.

- When we designed the \$30M King County Regional Emergency Coordination Center we invited local media company engineers to participate in designing the media technology interface so that media companies could easily and rapidly obtain situational updates from the facility and rapidly disseminate critical information to the general public.
- With the advent of Weapons of Mass Destruction one local media company King 5 News, a BELO station had me join their news team to review their policies and procedures to ensure the safety of their personnel as they attempt to get the story and protect the public.
- Disaster Response is when media and government must be working in tandem if we are to be successful.
 - Here in this region there is the Regional Disaster Response Plan for Public and Private Organizations. It was recognized by the 9/11 Commission as a best practice in public – private planning for disasters.
 - Clear Channel was the first major media company in the region to sign on to the plan and today we have all the major broadcast media companies with news organizations participating in this plan.
 - What this plan allows for is a closer working interface between government and the private industry, and should they choose to do so, between the local media companies themselves—which is a behavior that we saw work effectively during Katrina.
 - We have achieved a closer working interface by combining our efforts and doing effective pre-planning
 - Previously I hosted a government cable television program that is still continuing to air and is broadcast to 33 government cable Television stations. Two programs we did on that channel included how the media responds to disasters, doing one show with a radio news station KOMO 1000 a Fisher property and another show with the local King 5, BELO news team. Both of these are still available via streaming on the internet.

- *It is also important* for news organizations to become prepared for disasters that may impact their operations and ability to provide time sensitive critical information to the public.
 - KIRO 710 Radio, a Bonneville Station, invited me to meet with their news director and other staff to review their internal procedures, looking for ways to improve their station's preparedness
 - And, even today—in my new position, BELO has approached me to assist them in improving their disaster preparedness planning and business continuity functions for their Seattle stations.

There are more things that can be done in the future. I am hopeful that here in this region we will include local news media in planning for and participating in disaster exercises. Because to be really ready for the catastrophic disasters facing our region and the nation as a whole, we must be planning and training together—and not just show up at the scene of a disaster playing a pick-up game where we don't know one another and our mutual needs.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with the thought that we live in the information age. Media dominates our culture and as such it deserves to be treated as a separate and distinct critical infrastructure. Because, post disaster, once you give people water to drink the next most important element they are thirsty for is information and we can and must do a better job at preparing together so that the streams of information continue to flow.

Thank you for your attention and for making the trip here to Seattle to assess what is being done to forge a closer public – private media interface here in the Northwest.

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FILED/ACCEPTED

NOV 16 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

7703 SE 39th St.
Mercer Island, Washington 98040

November 9, 2007

FCC Commissioners'
Visiting panel in Seattle
By hand

06-121

Re: ~~Requests~~ Requests for FCC attention, action, and policy revisions

1. I managed a radio station in Seattle (KING-FM) in the days of the Fairness Doctrine. Once every three years to renew our license we were required to survey community needs and problems and submit a plan to discuss both, or all sides of them in Public Service time. Supposedly our performance against the plan determined our suitability as continued license holders.

The process was a bit cumbersome, but it did foster reasonably intelligent open discussion of more than one side of current local issues. Concerned citizens actually listened to the programs and responded to our invitations to comment. Our invitations to appear in discussion programs on the radio caused individuals and representatives of groups that disagreed to appear together and discuss the issues that concerned them. The Fairness Doctrine promoted rational, reasonably balanced discussions between groups of varied perspectives on different sides of many issues. I strongly request that you reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

It is common to hear these days that "the media" are the cause for divisiveness, distortion and discord, and the cause of decline in rational public discourse. Many complain about one-sided "news" or unrestrained commentary whose "facts" may not always be true. I submit that rather than the sole fault of the media at least part of this situation is a consequence of the FCC policy to eliminate the Fairness Doctrine. If we want to restore the factual, rational, reasonably balanced civil discourse that many, including me, believe is crucial to the effective functioning of a democracy, I suggest we start by restoring the Fairness Doctrine. It worked in the past. It could help promote attentive listening, rational discussion, balanced consideration, and attention to public problems today.

2. Another public policy the FCC might enact to the benefit of the country is to require that licensees of the public airways provide free time to qualified political candidates, both to state their views, and to defend them in group discussions.

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Citizens and candidates complain that office seekers must raise enormous amounts of money to buy broadcast time, and that their crafted use of the time often distorts, or reduces to "sound bites" the true complexities of the issues they seem to discuss. In the process of raising money candidates appear to become tainted by the money they raise. This appearance of undue influence by private monied interests, sometimes operating against the general welfare, can easily be modified by a simple FCC policy.

An underlying principle of licensing by the FCC is, or used to be, that the airwaves belong to all the citizens, and that stations are granted licenses to serve the public interest.

Broadcast properties have been enormously profitable, as well as influential in the past. They do not seem to have suffered any serious reduction in profitability. Why else would there be such an active market and desire to own them?

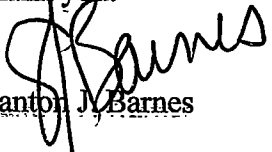
There may be some question, however, of the ability of these profitable properties to serve the public's interests as well as they serve their owners interests.

If the public owns the airwaves, why would licensed stations not be required to return partial payment for their use of the public's airwaves in the form of programs to inform citizens, promote awareness and encourage discussion of current issues? Such programs might even contribute to selection of those political candidates who offer effective solutions?

In my opinion, and that of the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, our institutions and all of our citizens presently face serious political and economic issues that will not be resolved quickly. We need more than ever accurate information, rational discussion, awareness of opposing views, and informed ability to make choices.

I strongly urge the Commission to enact a policy of reasonable free broadcast time for qualified candidates as a means to improve the ability of citizens to understand these issues, evaluate alternative approaches, and select candidates whose solutions appear most promising.

Thank you.



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